UNITED
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General Assembly

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda items 64, 82 (b), 83, 84 (a),
97, 127, 140 and 143

CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 22 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information note on the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to be held in Budapest from 29 November to 6 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as documents of the General Assembly under agenda items 64, 82 (b), 83, 84 (a), 97, 127, 140 and 143.

(Signed) André ERDÓS
Ambassador

ANNEX

Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Budapest, 29 November-6 December 1991

(Explanatory note on the Conference)

1. INTRODUCTION

Budapest, the capital of Hungary, is hosting the twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in late November 1991.

The Conference offers an exceptional opportunity for dialogue between Governments and the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on issues of shared concern, such as the application of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts and disaster relief. It is convened every four or five years.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The following are invited to take part in the Conference as of right:

The 167 States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949;

The 149 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (League);

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Moreover, the Standing Commission invites the following to attend as observers: individuals or organizations interested in the issues discussed by the Conference, including emerging National Societies and governmental, non-governmental, international, regional or national organizations.

3. PROCEEDINGS

Following a formal opening ceremony and an initial plenary meeting, delegates will work for four and a half days in two separate commissions.

Commission I will deal with the observance and implementation of international humanitarian law on such subjects as:

Famine and war;

The right to assistance;

Protection of the environment in wartime;

Children in armed conflicts, particularly child-soldiers;

The implementation of humanitarian rules governing the conduct of hostilities in non-international armed conflicts (use of chemical weapons and mines);

Prisoners of war;

Strengthening the rules on the use of certain existing weapons (mines) and new weapons technologies (weapons causing blindness);

Review of mechanisms to enhance respect for international humanitarian law.

Commission II will focus chiefly on the development of the National Societies and will discuss such issues as:

The activities of the National Societies and their federation, the League;

The Movement's role in the prevention of natural and technological disasters;

Coordination of the emergency relief operations in peacetime;

The Movement and refugees (and other displaced persons).

4. RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS

The opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the plenary meetings, are open to the press.

Daily briefings on Commission proceedings held in camera will be given by the Conference spokesperson.

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Letter dated 22 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

The following correction has been requested by the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations:

Document A/46/698 is hereby withdrawn.

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Agenda items 19 and 98
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO
COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 22 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the text of a statement of the Portuguese Government on Indonesia's appointed "Commission of Enquiry" into the Dili massacre (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could kindly arrange for the text of the present letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19 and 98, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Statement of the Government of Portugal on Indonesia's appointed "Commission of Enquiry" into the Dili massacre

The Indonesian Government, yelling apparently to the international outcry of protests over the vile massacre by its military of East-Timorese defenceless civilians, on 12 November, in Dili, appointed a so-called "Commission of Enquiry", chaired by a member of the Supreme Court, who happens to be a retired General, comprising members attached to or dependent on the Government.

(1) Indonesia, which is occupying by force and illegally, in violation of resolutions adopted by both the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations, the non-self-governing territory of East Timor, under Portuguese administration, recognized as such by the United Nations, lacks any legitimacy whatsoever to conduct such an enquiry;

(2) The aforesaid "Commission", moreover, does not meet any of the necessary requirements of credibility and impartiality and will, therefore, convert the indispensable investigation to be carried out on such a brutal violation of the most basic human rights into a mockery;

(3) Portugal strongly rejects any validity to this act of the Indonesian Government and reiterates its position that only an independent investigation, conducted under international supervision, will be legitimate and capable to ensure the seriousness imperatively required in those proceedings.

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APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 21 November 1991 from the President of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council, at its 3017th meeting, held in private on 21 November 1991, unanimously adopted resolution 720 (1991) concerning the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The resolution reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Having considered the question of the recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

"Recommends to the General Assembly that Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office from 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1996."

(Signed) Aurel Dragos MUNTEANU
President of the Security Council

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